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THE NORTHLAND EDITION OF THE WORKS OF SELMA LAGERLÖF. Nine volumes, translated into English by Velma Swanston Howard, Pauline Bancroft Flach, and Jessie Brochner. Doubleday, Page and Company, Garden City, New York, 1917.

The *Northland Edition* of Selma Lagerlöf in English contains the following titles: *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*, *The Further Adventures of Nils*, *Invisible Links*, *From a Swedish Homestead*, *The Story of Gösta Berling*, *The Emperor of Portugallia*, *The Girl from the Marshcroft*, *The Miracles of Antichrist*, and *Jerusalem*. The volumes are artistically and uniformly bound in limp green leather with gilt tops; though the number of pages varies, the volumes are all of approximately the same thickness, the total thickness of the set being about half that of the original editions of the translations. The price per volume is \$1.75. In the publication of the *Northland Edition*, Doubleday, Page and Company have accomplished two things: 1) they have brought together under one publisher most of the translations of Selma Lagerlöf (the set does not contain quite all that has been issued elsewhere in America), and 2) thereby they have made possible the publication of a uniform edition with an attractive exterior.

The nine volumes are, however, without exception, printed from the old plates, which results in great unevenness within the covers. There are different styles and sizes of type in different volumes; the width and length of the type-page differs, though the uniform cutting of the paper makes the paper page always of the same size. Not even in matters where uniformity could easily have been achieved do we find the necessary changes. For example, the words "The End" which stand at the close of most of the volumes could easily have been removed or vice versa. *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils* alone contains a supplementary note on the pronunciation of words in that volume. This could have been removed, or similar helps could have been added to each volume (which would have been highly desirable).

Of more consequence to the reader is the fact that, whatever improvements may have been made in the plates in the various publishing houses since the time of the original publication, they have clearly not undergone a thorough revision for the present issue, which would have been distinctly in place. Not even have misprints been corrected. I shall call attention only to a few instances. In the page heading of p. IX of *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils* we find in the present and in the original edition the *s* of *Nils* missing; on p. XII of the same we find *Goteborg Morgon Posten*; on p. 83, both *allée* and *alleé*; on p. 256, *Nelja* and *Kunsi* for *Neljä* and *Kuusi*; on p. 213 of *The Emperor of Portugallia*, *Stovik* (cf. p. 104, *Storvik*).

Between different volumes of the set there are also various inconsistencies; most examples of such will naturally be found in the two *Nils* Holgersson

volumes, which I shall here designate as I (= *Adventures*) and II (= *Further Adventures*). In I we find the inexplicable form (easier to pronounce?) *Vem-minghög* (e.g., p. 134) for the Swedish form *Vemmenhög*, which is used in II (e.g., p. 228); in I we find the spelling *Lappland* (e.g., p. 41), while in II, *Lap-land* is used (e.g., p. 169); in I, one of the wild geese is called *Iksi* (e.g., p. 52), in II, *Yksi* (e.g., p. 309). Undesirable inconsistency within a volume we find in the use in I of *West Bothnia* (p. 201) and *Westbottom* (p. 221). In I and II the spelling *Vermland* is used; in *The Story of Gösta Berling*, *Värmland*.

There are also other matters in the case of which it would seem that improvements would have suggested themselves. The forms of the proper names strike the critical eye as being most inadequately handled, and while no two persons could agree on every detail, the inconsistencies are very evident as the names stand. Translation of the whole or a part of a proper name is very often resorted to, but very often not in cases where it seems to the reviewer that much would be gained by such interpretation. Cases are so numerous that I need cite no examples. A queer form of related type is *Söder Ridge* for the Swedish *Söderåsen*. *Åsbjörn* of the original Swedish is transformed into *Ashbjörn* (II, p. 137). In I, p. IX even the well-known Norwegian writer becomes *Ashbjörnsen*. I can see no objection to the form *Smålander* in I, p. 308, but can see no reason for the addition of an *e* in the Anglicized *Skåninge* on the same page. Surely the reader would have been better served by an interpretation of *Östersjön* as *Baltic* (so II, 320) and not as the *East sea* (I, p. 26) and elsewhere *East Sea*; when Selma Lagerlöf used the word *Östersjön*, she did not aim at any special effect, as this is the regular name of the Baltic in Swedish.

I have spoken above of the note on pronunciation at the close of I. In the original English edition, as in the present edition, the rules for pronunciation given do not cover by far all difficulties that occur in the text of the volume. Let it suffice to give here just three out of many unexplained pronunciations: *Kuusi* (p. 52), *Viltskövle* (79), and *Tjust* (299).

The accuracy of the translation as such I have not now examined anew, but I have found inaccuracies in earlier perusals, and there is clearly little likelihood that these have been corrected for the present edition. In my present examination from other points of view only one new case has occurred to me: the word "Township" is used to translate both *socken* (I, p. 7) and *härad* (I, p. 299).

As a consequence, I suppose, of the printing of many impressions from the plates, the type is in very many instances more or less badly worn and ragged, especially in certain of the volumes.

On the inside of the covers of all the volumes there are maps of the *Värmland* and the *Dalarna* regions that Selma Lagerlöf has made famous. I would call attention to the fact that they contain several quite explicable, though unfortunate, misspellings; as, *Curlitta Cliff*, *Duncter Cliff*, *Lövdalla*. A good addition to the *Nils Holgersson* volumes could have been made in the form of a map of all of Sweden, showing the route covered.

In the interest of a more worthy treatment of our Scandinavian authors in American translation, it has appeared to me to be my duty to point out these inequalities. I am well aware of the fact that the re-issue of the various works of Selma Lagerlöf in entirely uniform volumes, except for the exterior, would have been practically out of the question; I am also aware of the fact that an accurate and detailed revision in the spirit of my review would have entailed possibly too great expense. But with only a moderate outlay many an important improvement could have been made.

In pointing out the editorial shortcomings of the *Northland Edition*, I do not want to detract from the importance to the spread of acquaintance with Swedish literature that such a publication brings with it. The publisher has beyond question improved greatly on the exterior attractiveness of the Lagerlöf translations. To the average reader that means much.

Further volumes can be added to the set, as occasion presents itself, and the publishers are planning this fall to issue the second part of *Jerusalem*.

A. LOUIS ELMQUIST.

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